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Bob Rosenthal
Sports Information Director
406/243-2522

Information Services, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812

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sports state + Big Sky

LEWIS RESIGNS POSITION AS TRACK COACH
EFFECTIVE JULY 1
rosenthal/jg

MISSOULA--

University of Montana men's athletic director and head track coach Harley Lewis, will resign his track position, effective July 1.

Lewis will resign the position to give more time to administering the athletic department.

"I'm going to miss coaching and the direct contact in track and field," Lewis said, "but with modern athletics as complex as it is, it is essential to have a full-time administrator in the department of intercollegiate athletics."

Lewis said he is now conducting a national search to fill the position.

Lewis was named head track coach and cross country coach for men in 1966. He won nine Big Sky cross country titles before resigning that position previous to the 1976 season when he was named athletic director. He also won the conference track title in 1972. He has been named Big Sky conference coach of the year ten times.

Lewis has had three all-American performers in the last twelve years and all but three existing school records in track and field were set during Lewis' tenure as head coach.

From 1968 to 1976 he was the District 7 (Rocky Mountain area) representative to the NCAA and was the National Cross Country Coaches President in 1976. He held several other positions before 1976 in that organization.

In 1971 he was the U.S. Olympic Committee's coordinator for distance training. In 1968 he was the weight coach for the pre-olympic training program and in 1967 he was the coordinator for the high altitude training, for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The men's and women's athletic programs at Montana have been consolidated and changes have been made in some job descriptions.

Women's athletic director, Sharon Dinkel, will become associate athletic director in the consolidated department. Her primary functions will be to assist the athletic director in the administration of intercollegiate athletics, and to work with the interpretation and implementation of AIAW regulations for the women.

The new men's track coach will be an assistant to the athletic director with primary responsibilities being to the men's track program and the business aspect of intercollegiate athletics. That individual will share the business responsibilities with Lewis. The current business manager is Earl Martell, who will be retiring June 30.

Women's track coach Will Cheesman will retain that position as well as his position of head cross country coach for the men and women.

Mike Montgomery was named head basketball coach April 7, 1978. He is administratively in charge of the men's and women's basketball program. Montgomery will have coaching responsibilities to the men.

A national search is now being conducted to fill two assistant basketball coaching positions. One assistant will work with Montgomery in coaching the men, assist in recruiting and scheduling, and work with the men's junior varsity program. The other assistant will be primarily responsible to the women's program, coaching and scheduling games. That person will also assist in recruiting and scheduling for the men.

Applications for the two positions will be taken until May 1. The positions will be filled by May 15.

The University of Montana is also advertising for a women's volleyball coach. That position is expected to be filled by May 15.

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